

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 048063
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY: EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD

APPROVED BY: P - MR. HABIB

EA-MR. OAKLEY

S/S-MR. SHANKLE

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P 040128Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 048063

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2, LINE 5 OMITTED)
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, US

SUBJECT: LEE KUAN YEW'S TRAVEL PLANS

REF: SINGAPORE 803

1. DURING SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR COOMARASWAMY'S COURTESY
CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB (SEPTTEL), QUESTION OF
PRIME MINISTER LEE'S PROPOSED TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES
(REFTTEL) AROSE. COOMARASWAMY CONFIRMED THAT LEE ALSO
PLANNED TO VISIT CANADA, AND THAT HE PLANNED TO ACCEPT
AN HONORARY DEGREE AT AMHERST TOWARDS THE END OF MAY.
UNDER SECRETARY HABIB NOTED THE GREAT SCHEDULING DIFFI-
CULTIES INVOLVED IN VISITING WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME,

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PAGE 02 STATE 048063

GIVEN INVOLVEMENT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN SUMMIT PLANS AND
OTHER PENDING VISITS. HE UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE THIS MATTER
FURTHER ON AN INFORMAL BASIS AND ADVISE COOMARASWAMY AC-
CORDINGLY. UNTIL THEN, SINCE HE LACKED INSTRUCTIONS ON
THE MATTER, COOMARASWAMY SAID HE WOULD NOT REPORT THIS
ASPECT OF THE CONVERSATION TO SINGAPORE.

2. COOMARASWAMY LATER CALLED DEPTOFF TO SAY THAT LEE PLANNED FIRST TO VISIT CANADA (OTTAWA AND ALBERTA) IN THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY. HE PLANNED TO BE AT AMHERST FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 21ST, TO RECEIVE THE DEGREE AND CONDUCT SEMINARS. THAT COMMITMENT, HOWEVER, WAS SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON THAT HE

WISHED TO SEE. HE MIGHT REVERSE THE SCHEDULE, AND GO TO WASHINGTON BEFORE AMHERST. THE PRESENT THINKING WAS THAT LEE WOULD LEAVE THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS THE END OF MAY. HOWEVER, SINCE THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS MEETING WOULD BE HELD JUNE 8-16 IN LONDON, COOMARASWAMY THOUGHT HE COULD LEAVE FOR IT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE.

3. WE WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE SCHEDULING QUESTION AND ADVISE YOU FURTHER. FOR THE MOMENT, SUBJECT MUST REMAIN FYI ONLY.
VANCE

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